

**From:** Stephen Perez  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/8/01 8:41am  
**Subject:** Support for States/DC Microsoft Settlement

I just wanted to quickly write in support of the settlement proposed by the 9 states and DC. The DOJ's previous decision was too much of a wrist slap, full of loopholes which Microsoft's lawyers will be more than happy to exploit. To be quite honest, after reading the original proposal (not Judge Jackson's, but the next one) I got the eerie feeling that Microsoft's lawyers were more technically savvy than the governments - making sure that there were carefully worded exceptions for any of the major points that may have actually had any "bite". While I am not a lawyer, I am a software engineer, and if I worked for Microsoft, I would find it quite easy to come up with some technical reasons why a particular "remedy" could be circumvented. Now about perception. It appears to me something odd is going on. The DOJ does an about face in the prosecution of Microsoft - once they appeared to really be trying to do something to help out the consumers. Now, we are given a proposals which absolutely lacks teeth. Microsoft at one time allowed themselves to be billed a million dollars a day just to be stubborn and not comply with government mandates. Now, Microsoft seems more than happy to do anything the government asks. I think this is because they realize that they're not being asked to do much at all.

Anyway, please give serious consideration to the recent states/DC proposal in this matter and give the consumers/competitors some real relief.

Stephen Perez  
Software Engineer, Austin, Texas.